



JOINT BASE LEWIS-McCHORD

PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE

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JBLM reschedules test firing of HIMARS Reduced Range Practice Rockets: Sept. 27-29, 2016

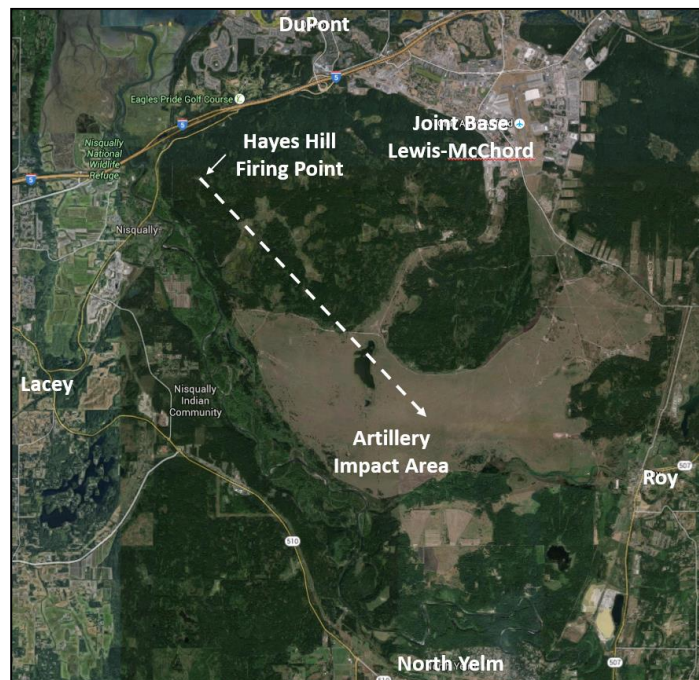
JOINT BASE LEWIS-McCHORD, Wash. – JBLM has rescheduled the test firing of up to 27 High Mobility Artillery Rocket System (HIMARS) Reduced Range Practice Rockets (RRPR) over a three-day period at JBLM from Sept. 27-29 to measure the noise from the rocket firing.

JBLM had planned to test fire the rockets in March; however, the firings were delayed because an important safety feature on the HIMARS vehicle alerted to insufficient tree-top clearance at the firing point.

In March, one acre of trees had been removed from the firing point. Now, about 10 acres of trees have been removed as part of a timber sale. By law, 40 percent of the net proceeds from timber sales on JBLM goes to Pierce and Thurston Counties to support schools and roads.

The tree removal ensures a clear flight path for the practice rockets from the firing point to the target area. The HIMARS' computer safety feature validates the clear flight path.

JBLM leaders said in March the base will only conduct the tests when they can be done safely and accurately, thereby protecting the surrounding communities and the Soldiers who are conducting the tests.



"We understand the communities' interest in these tests, and I can assure you the correct conditions have been set to test fire the HIMARS practice rockets at JBLM," said Col. Daniel S. Morgan, JBLM Commander. "We sincerely appreciate everyone's patience while we found the right solution for these tests, and we look forward to efficiently gathering the noise data we require," Morgan added.

The Reduced Range Practice Rockets (RRPR) will be fired on these dates:

Sept. 27 (Tuesday)

- 9 a.m. 3 rockets fired, one at a time
- 12 noon 3 rockets fired, one at a time
- 2 p.m. 3 rockets fired, one at a time
- 5 p.m. 3 rockets fired, one at a time

Sept. 28 (Wednesday)

- 9 a.m. 3 rockets fired, one at a time
- 2 p.m. 3 rockets fired, one at a time

HIMARS RRPR Rescheduled, 2-2-2

- 5 p.m. 3 rockets fired, one at a time
- 8 p.m. 3 rockets fired, one at a time

Sept. 29 (Thursday)

- 9 a.m. 3 rockets fired, one at a time

**Firing dates & times are subject to change; Updates at <https://www.facebook.com/JBLewisMcChord>

NOTE:

- Rockets will be fired only from the Hayes Hill Firing Point; rockets will be fired one at a time
- Rockets will be fired southeast into the center of JBLM's Artillery Impact Area
- Rockets WILL NOT be fired over I-5 or any community

Feedback: During the RRPR test firing, citizens are welcome to provide feedback by calling the JBLM hotline at 253-967-0852, or sending an e-mail to usarmy.jblm.imcom.mbx.pao-public@mail.mil

RRPR Characteristics: Reduced range rockets (RRPRs) have a range of 5-9 miles and they do not carry any explosives. The rockets reach supersonic velocity in about one second and remain supersonic for about 3.7 miles. The rockets will hit their targets in about 5-6 seconds. For the JBLM test firings the rockets will fly at an altitude of 1,300 feet. RRPRs are unarmed, blunt-nose, high-drag rockets. All fuel is expended within 2-3 seconds after launch, so the rocket will be an empty shell on impact.

Anticipated Noise Level: For the RRPR test firing, noise monitoring equipment will be strategically placed around the rockets' flight path. Noise data from these devices will be gathered to assess the rocket noise throughout the testing region. If noise levels exceed an average of 130 decibels a day (e.g., based on the average noise level of nine rockets) at any off-base monitoring station then stopping the tests will be considered.

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